Big Help to Farmer.

Secretary Shehan of the State Board of Charities and Correction in spected the jails and county farms of Pierce, Knox, Wayne, Cedar, Dakota, Dixon and Thurston countles last week and has made a report to the governor upon their condition. The jail in Pierce, while old, is in good condition and equipped in a modern way, but the poor farm house is not as it should be, nothing modern about it, no electric lights or bath tub. He was pleased to find workmen pulling down the Knox county jail and getting ready to put up a new one with modern fixings. Knox has no poor farm. Wayne county has a good jail and it is kept in good shape. It has a separate room for female prisoners. There are no prisoners in that county. The county has no poor farm, but rents what was formerly the court house, situated about seven miles from the county seat of Wayne, for which the county pays a rental of \$220 a year. The Cedar county jail is in good condition. It is used by both the county and city for jail purposes. The poor farm is a fairly good one. The Dakota county jail is fairly good, but is poorly ventilated, but as there are no prisoners the ventilation is not bothering any became known as mince pie. However, many old poor farm are up to date and well conducted. The Thurston county jail poor farm

When Mr. John Jones of Boxbutte, Dakota, Dawes, Gage, Kimball, Madison, Seward or Thurston counties wants to buy a team of mares, it is no longer necessary for him to spend much valuable time scouring the county over in search of the prospective team. All that he now has to do is to write or go to the office of his county agricultural agent and ask to see the list of horses for sale. If it happens to be a second-hand plow, or some seed corn, it is all the same. All of the things which the farmer wishes to sell are listed in the office of the county agricultural agent. Through the agency of such farmers' exchanges, many thousands of dollars worth of business is transacted each year in the eight counties of Nebraska having farmers' associations employing such agents. The agent merely acts as a clearing house for such information.

Recent experimental work at the Nebraska agricultural experiment station has corroborated the results of former tests in showing the economical superiority of a ration of corn and alfalfa for fattening steers, Cold pressed cottonseed cake used in connection with alfalfa hav, sllage, and lowered the profits. Cold pressed cottonseed cake did not give as good results as regards either rate of gain or economy of gain as did alfalfa hay. Different amounts of silage in the ration did not seem to make any material difference in the amount of gains.

Eight Nebraska alfalfa meal mills have reported to the labor commissioner's office their activities for the in these eight mills was \$456,050; total value of production for the year, \$2,682,369,25; total value of stock used, \$2,395,645.30; employes under 16 years, eight; total number of employes, 205; average wage per day, \$2.17; total paid in wages for the year, \$119,706.68.

State Bacteriologist Wild states that there is considerable typhoid throughout the state at the present time and that in consequence he is overrun with requests for examination of water. He now has a sufficient number of these on hand to keep him busy until January 15 and more are coming in all of the time,

An inter-scholastic stock judging contest will be held early in April at the College of Agriculture. This will be open to all high schools in the state, and each agricultural instructor is invited to send a team of three men. Fifteen classes of live stock will be judged, including beef cattle, sheep horses and hogs.

Receipts of the food, drug and dalry commission for the three-month period ending November 30 totaled \$35,762, according to a check of the department completed by State Accountant DeFrance. Disbursements in the same period aggregated \$20,001.

The University School of Agriculture Winter Short Course will open at the University Farm, Lincoln, Tuesday, January 4, 1916, and continue for six weeks.

A total of 3,714 warrants were written by the state auditor's force during the month of November. Of the number 2,555 were on the general fund. Their total cash fund totaled \$41,498.

According to figures prepared by the State Board of Agriculture, the output of Nebraska farms this year totals up to the nice little sum of \$560,555,439, which ought to be evidence to most anybody that farming in Nebraska is better than gold min-

ing in Alaska. Nebraska hens laid down on their job of laying eggs in 1914 and produced 4,500,000 dozen less eggs than they did the year previous, according to figures being prepared by the state labor bureau.

The Union Pacific won its tax case against Buffalo county in the supreme court recently. The suit was brought to overturn a levy of 81/2 mills made by District No. 3 for the support of the school. The evidence showed that a 1 mill levy would have met all expenses.

Thousands of Dollars Worth of Business Transacted Through Agent.

a red apple in his mouth, which, alas! he could

At last the company came, the mistress pre-

serving a calm exterior, but with an inward

When all is ready the beaming host says,

Friends, will thee join us in the Christmas

feast?" And with great dignity he leads them,

with the guest of honor on his arm, followed by

The Table Decorated.

The large turkey is at one end and the pig at

the other end of the long table, with everything

they are to eat between, excepting the plum

After the silent grace, which stills the noise

for a moment, the carver takes his knife, and

with a deliberation born of steady perves carves

The directions in "Gentlewoman's House

wifery" says: "Raise the leg fairly of the tur-

key and open the joint with the point of the

and open the breast pinion, but do not take it

off. Then raise the Merry Thought between the

breast bone and the top of it," and so on till

the turkey is boned. While this is being done

pass the vegetables and delicacies, and even the

mince pie is eaten when they have the desire

The Correct Manners.

to. The book of etiquette says: "A gentlewom-

an must not lean her elbows on the table, nor by

a ravenous gesture discover a voracious appe-

tite, nor talk with her mouth full, nor smack her

feast was decorous, but merry for all that.

The children were kept in order. In all the

At last, when they have eaten to the extent of

their capacity, the plum pudding, blazing and

with a piece of holly stuck in the top, is brought

in and eaten with brandy sauce. Then the toasts

are drunk with the good home-brewed wine, and

HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas, originally Cristes masse ("the mass

or church festival of Christ"), is the English

name for the season in which the birth of Christ

is commemorated. It is apparent, however, that

a festival was celebrated at this season long be-

fore it was held sacred as the birthday of Jesus

of Nazareth. The Saturnalia of the Romans and

the winter festival of the heathen Britons were

both celebrated about December 25; and later.

the Roman festival in honor of the sun god.

Mithra (instituted 273 A. D.) From the latter the

day became to be known as the "Birthday of the

Unconquered Sun;" and after its adoption by the

Christian church in the fourth century as the

anniversary of Christ's birth, this name was

A study of the customs associated with this

period also reveals a heathen, if not invariably

a solar, origin. The lighting of the Yule log tha

buche de Noel) on Christmas eve, once a wide-

apread European custom, is or was a function of

such predominant importance among the Li-

thuanians and Letts that their words for Christ-

mas eve literally signify "Log evening." The

sports of the "Lords of Misrule" in England are

thought to be an inheritance from the Saturnalia.

The decoration of churches with the once sacred

mistletoe and holly is a pagan survival.

given a symbolic interpretation.

The proper conventions are strictly adhered

After they are helped to turkey and pig they

Then lace down both sides of the breat bone

under the fire of twenty pairs of eyes.

knife, but do not take off the leg.

the "Christmas bowl" is passed.

lips like a pig."

the feast is done.

The table is a picture to cheer the hungry

anxiety lest something be burned or spilled at the

never eat, and garnished him with holly.

the older people and the children.

last moment.

pudding.

ACK IN COLONIAL GREAT FEASTS MONORING THE OCCASION : HERE'S HOW

> HE Christmas season brings to mind the many Christmas days gone by. with their four great features-turkey, cranberry sauce, plum pudding and mince pie.

It was a good old English custom, not to be rejected by the American colonists, although modifications were necessary to suit the religion and conditions of living in the colonies, the Christ-spirit being substituted for the pagan yuletide, the famous "boar's head" was omitted, and the Christmas pie

body. The poor farm consists of observances were kept, including the mistletoe eighty acres and is a good one, well and holly, and Christmas was a day for family conducted. The Dixon county jail and gatherings, with a feast prepared by the women of the house. It is quite possible that we would not like

is a good one, but that county has no | their flavorings today. They used a variety of spices, wines and seasonings in even their plainest dishes; but as everything was prepared in the home, either under the supervision of the mistress or by her own hands, the mixtures were wholesoses

Everything was turned to account in the season with a view to future use, so in this way preparations for the holiday were going on long before the day.

In cherry time, a supply was carefully packed in hay and kept for Christmas.

The Christmas cookies, with coriander seed in them, were baked six months before and kept in an earthenware jar in the cellar. Mince Meat Recipe.

The rich plum pudding and cakes were made early in the fall and put away to mellow and

The mincement was then made, the recipe for which was recently found in an old Philadelphia cookbook. We copy all but the spelling: "Four pounds veal, four pounds suet, two pounds raisins, one pound currants, six apples, some rose water and sack half a pound, no more of sugar, three-fourths pound cloves, mace, nutmeg and cinnamon, some candied orange peel, lemon peel, citron and blanched almonds."

They made a puff paste for their pies different from ours. One recipe called for flour, one pound butter, ten eggs and some milk or water. Some housewives made their winter supply of mince pies before Thanksgiving and reheated them before using.

For the lemon tarts, the lemons had to be first soaked in salt water for two days. Then every corn increased the cost of gains and day for fourteen days they were put into fresh cold water. When they were made, apples, oranges and sugar were added.

A few days before Christmas the mistress went to market, the maid carrying the basket. She would get her turkey, cranberries, celery, oysters, and a little pig for roasting whole.

The day before Christmas the real excitement began. The stuffing was made, and such stuffing! Bread crumbs, beef suet, liver, lemon peels, nutmeg, savory, pepper, salt, cream and eggs. The little pig, only four or five weeks old, was filled year 1914. The total capital invested to his utmost capacity with mashed potatoes or

Not the least to be considered were the green decorations. Ground pine for festoons and wreaths, mistletoe to hang, and holly everywhere were the necessities.

When Christmas morning came the excitement was at the highest pitch. The housewife, her daughters and her maids were up early. The brick oven was heated and the mince pies put in. The turkey was dredged with flour and put on the spit, with a small unwilling child to watch and turn it as it browned.

Another child was set to cracking nuts and polishing apples.

Roasting the Little Pig. The little pig was put before the fire to roast in the dripping pan, in which were three bottles of red wine for basting.

While the things were cooking a long table, the length of the room, was spread with the white linen cloth, napkin, china and silver or pewter.

In the middle of the table was the famed Christmas bowl. Here are the quaint directions for making it:

"Break nine sponge cakes and half a pound of macaroons in a deep dish; pour over one pint raisin wine, half pint sherry. Leave them to soak. Sweeten with two ounces of powdered sugar candy and pour over one pint and a half of custard. Stick with two ounces sliced almonds. Place on a stand and ornament with Christmas evergreens."

The tankard with the Christmas brew was put on the table, and all the sillabubs, jellies, pickles. lemon tarts, red apples, nuts, the cookies and the cherries fresh from the hay.

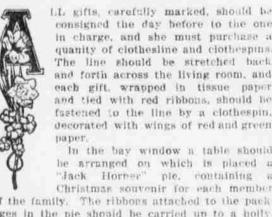
The fireplaces were now blazing, and the red berries and green leaves of the holly were shining in the light. The mistletoe was waiting for the unwary, and

the good smell of the brown turkey, savory stuffing and applesauce was everywhere. Don Their Best Frocks.

After the housewife and her daughters had seen to everything they hurried to put on their best flowered silks, with white whims around their necks and the most secret beautifiers on

their faces. Then the dinner being nearly cooked, they took the little browned pig, raised him gently and put two small loaves of bread under him, and added more wine; an anchovy, a bundle of sweet herbs and a half a lemon was put into the sauce, which was poured over him hot. They had him sitting on his haunches looking lifelike. Then they put

DISTRIBUTING THE GIFTS. HERE



LL gifts, carefully marked, should be consigned the day before to the one in charge, and she must purchase a quanity of clothesline and clothespins The line should be stretched back and forth across the living room, and each gift, wrapped in tissue paper and tied with red ribbons, should be fastened to the line by a clothespin. decorated with wings of red and green

be arranged on which is placed a 'Jack Horner' ple, containing a Christmas souvenir for each member of the family. The ribbons attached to the pack ages in the pie should be carried up to a bolly decorated hoop go, pended over the table, each ribbon tagged with the name of the one for whom it is intended. When the "family wash" has been taken down-each person geeking his or her own gift-they gather around the pie, and at a signal "pull out their plams."

Hidden in Egg Shells. When the family is all present at breakfast start to serve the meal of coffee bread and but ter, ham and soft-cooked eggs without any mention of gifts.

At each place have an eggcup or saucer, on which you put an egg, the contents having been removed previously through a small hole in the end; partly fill with sand, and let each contain a small paper with a suggestion in poetry of where or how to find their gifts.

As each person thinks he is cracking his egg he finds the puzzle inside. Much merriment and good cheer will be the

Serve original contents of eggenetls in omelet Hide one person's gifts in bookcase, paper in egg to read:

If you are either wise or smart You'll find me in a hurry. Among gifted people I now dwell; So hunt, don't sit and worry.

Frost King and Snowballs. As this is the time for the clever woman or the family to devise some unique way of distributing Christmas gifts, she may decorate the living room with evergreens, holly and mistletoe, and then place in one corner a table covered with a white cloth, hidden from view by a screen of generous size. On this table is placed snow balls. These snowballs, made of white cotton batting and tied with white robbon, contain each designated present, and are heaped in a pyramid, thus obtaining a mass of snowballs of varied size. The pile is scattered freely with diamond dust. In order to give it an attractive sparkle. If there is a small boy in the house he may be dressed as a Frost King, in a costume of white wadding, sprinkled with diamond dust, leaves and holly berries can be sewed here and there upon the robe. At a given signal the screen is removed, disclosing the tiny Frost King, who, with a few words of Christmas greeting, gathers the snowballs into a pretty basket, and as each ball bears a small tag he finds no difficulty in

distributing the gifts to those assembled. A Holly Pie. A novel way of distributing Christmas gifts on Christmas morning is to make a big pie in the center of the table of holly branches, and arrange it so the gifts can be easily drawn from under it. Each gift must be tied with a narrow red ribbon and one end lead to each place at the table. This is great fun, and of course everyone is anxious to see who gets the most ribbons, the lucky one being declared the most popular. The pie is not "opened" antil end of brenk-

A Christmas Trail. One member of the family should take charge of the gifts, and when the coast is clear should lay the "trail" with them in all of the available downstairs rooms. Start from a tiny Christmas. tree on the living room table by fastening to it a card for each person, marked, for example, thus: "Card No. 1, father. Look for card No. 2 in umbrella stand in hall." In the stand he will find a package tagged in this manner; "Card No. 2, father. Look for eard No. 3 in your hat in hall closet." The third card will be found on a gift in the spot designated, "ith further instructions, which are followed on to the next, until all his presents come to light. Everyone pursues his or her trail at once, and a merry scene of confusion is the result. These cards may be prepared beforehand, and no difficulty will be experienced if, in placing the gifts, each trail is finished before starting to 'ay another. The last cards should direct the family to their pidces at the dining room table, where they will find amusing souvenirs of the occasion.

Cobweb Method. A rather novel and entirely inexpensive way of distributing Christmas gifts is to employ the "colweb" method. Suspend a rope diagonally across the room, over which the strings may cross, each string to be labeled at its source with the name of the member of the family or the friend for whom it is intended. A sheet can be hung across one end of the room, hiding the gifts from view until time for winding the strings. Let all begin the quest at same, it being necessary to find the beginnings of the strings where the names are attached. This will afford considerable amusement, as the strings should be run through keyholes, under beds, over transoms and even out of doors, if possible,

Aside from the element of mystery contained in this method, there is the added value which attaches to those things which have been really carned through one's own efforts.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT

the second of the second of the second

For many years one Sunday school has had a giving Christmas instead of a receiving one. The pupils bring gifts instead of receiving them.

The favorite method is for a class to plan a Christmas dinner. Each one in the class brings something for that purpose. One of the boys or girls can march forward agging a turkey or a chicken, and other member or members of the same class following with articles for a Christmas dinner, not forgetting cranberries, mince ple and celery.

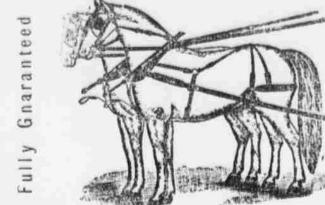
Still others like better to flourish a paper with

an order for a ton or half a ton of coal. This may be given by the united contributions of a

A novel and successful Christmas entertainment was given in an eastern Sunday school. After prayer, Scripture responses and carols, sleigh bells were heard, announcing the coming of Santa Claus. He appeared upon the platform shaking an empty bag, and lamented he had no gifts for some needy children. "Little Beginners" hastened to their friend with packages of sugar and "sweet" little rhymes; primary chitdren followed: then representatives from every class in the school, even the Bible union. Offerings were accompanied by specially prepared recitations, songs or dialogues, and givers dressed to suit their gift. Children bringing cereals appeared as "Quakers:" rice suggested Chinese ostume: tea. Japanese; "pure" products, the Paritan style, each. Songs were set to popular

airs, making drill work easy. Finally, Santa Claus had a valuable supply of provisions for an orphan asylum. The happy givers then received remembrances from the teachers. All found " it is more blessed to give than to receive?"

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